

REMARKS

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner erroneously indicates that Claim 1-15, 22-25 and 29-41 are pending in the application. Applicants note that Claim 16-22 and 26-29 were canceled without prejudice in the Response to Restriction Requirement filed on April 4, 2003. Accordingly, Claims 1-15, 23-25, and 30-41 are pending in the application.

Claim 40 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, all claim amendments herein are directed towards a matter of form.

Claim 41 satisfies 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner states:

Claim 41 recites the limitation "said first alignment mark" in claim 41. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. (Office Action, page 2.)

Applicants note that Claim 41 depends from Claim 1. Claim 1 recites "a first alignment mark ...", which provides the antecedent basis for the term "said first alignment mark" in Claim 41. Accordingly, Claim 41 satisfies 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 40 and 41 are patentable over Matsumoto (2001/0040224).

Initially, Applicants note that Claim 41 depends from allowable Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 41 is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claim 40 has been amended and now depends from allowable Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 40 is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

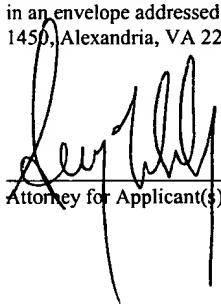
For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Claims 1-15, 23-25, 30-41 remain in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

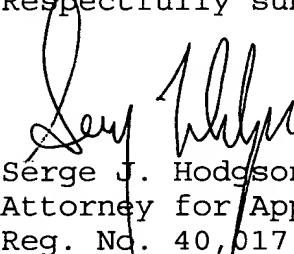
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 13, 2005.

  
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Attorney for Applicant(s)

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January 13, 2005  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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